COVID-19 and the Accessibility Spotlight

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Agenda

• Introductions
• Grassroots Groundwork
• Pandemic Shifts
• Goals for the Future
Introductions
Virginia Tech

Accessible Technologies

• R1 Public land grant institution
• More than 37,000 students
• 2,070 Instructional Faculty
• Multiple campuses
• Teams: ADA, Services for Students with Disabilities, and Accessible Technologies
George Mason University

Assistive Technology Initiative (ATI)

• R1 Public Institution (largest in VA)
• ~39k students from 130+ countries
• Heavy investment in online instruction
• 1500+ Instructional and Research Faculty
• 10 colleges and schools, 4 locations
• Centralized AT and Digital Accessibility approach
University of Virginia
Coordinator of Academic Accessibility

- R1 Public institution with medical center
- Nearly 27,000 undergrad/grad students
- ~3,200 faculty and ~9,700 staff
- 12 Schools
- Centers across the state and a 4-yr institution
  UVA College at Wise
- Accessibility Partners
Grassroots Groundwork
Peer-to-Peer Information Sharing
Institutional Capacity Building

High Risk/High Impact Approach

Keep C.A.L.M. campaigns

Captioning Workflows
High Risk/High Impact Approach

• Collaborations with Disability Services (*pre-semester* faculty training workshops) and Stearns Center (*integrated accessibility into online course development process*)
Keep C.A.L.M Campaigns

Choose Accessible Learning Materials
The Captioning Project

• Captioning Coordinators

• Leveraged existing agreements
Virginia Higher Education Accessibility Partners

VHEAP

• Effort to leverage resources of large institutions to benefit smaller

• Share resources, experiences, and expertise among all members

• Formalized in 2018

• Looking at accessibility holistically – digital, built, and attitudinal – Higher Ed, K-12, Gov Agencies
Established relationships laid the groundwork for scaling accessibility
Pandemic Shifts
Virginia Higher Education Accessibility Partners Events

**VHEAP**

- Unconference
- Apple and Microsoft Townhalls
- Captioning Brown Bag
- Online Proctoring Brown Bag
Pandemic at Mason

• Internal partnerships
• Accessibility-As-A-Service Workflows
• Procurement
Pandemic at Virginia Tech

• Informational Resource Sharing
• Centralized Captioning
• Adoption of Ally
• Campus Accessibility Working Group Support
• Increase Staff size
Pandemic at University of Virginia

• Centralized funding for post-production captioning of academic content
• Licensing of Otter and integration with Zoom
• Relied on instructional designers across the University and the Center for Teaching Excellence
Our pre-pandemic collaborations empowered our collective efforts
Goals for the Future
VHEAP Expansion

• Expanded captioning contract
• Identify other areas of impact – i.e. Position Papers
• Sustained funding model
• Expand participation to K-12 and State agencies
George Mason’s Accessibility Goals

• Increase staffing support for web accessibility
• Develop Accessibility “action items” for Inclusive Excellence Plans
Virginia Tech’s Accessibility Goals

• Document remediation
• Audio description
• Web accessibility monitoring/auditing
• G3ict Digital Inclusion Maturity Model
UVA’s Accessibility Goals

• Engage more faculty
• Broaden captioning adoption
Next Steps
Where does accessibility currently fit?

• One-stop shop
• Under IT
• Under Student Affairs
• Under Inclusion and Diversity
How does accessibility fit into your institution’s mission?

- IT Operational Plan
- IT Strategic Plan
- Diversity Strategic Plans
- Department/Unit-Specific Initiatives
Who is a strategic partner?
Pinpoint a starting place
Summary & Conclusions

Connect accessibility and the mission

Pick a strategic partner

Pinpoint a starting place

Thank you for coming! Please complete the session evaluation.

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